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Continued

Melanson, Philip H.

an agent-provocateur." Because Melanson does not document any of these sweeping assertions, the reader must accept them simply on faith.—*A. Theoharis, Marquette University*

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Melanson, Philip H. **Spy saga: Lee Harvey Oswald and U.S. intelligence.** Praeger, 1990. 201p bibl index afp **ISBN 0-275-93571-X, $21.95**

In this brief, highly speculative monograph (that includes 28 pages of notes) Melanson first raises questions about Lee Harvey Oswald's background and associations and then relates these to questions concerning President Kennedy's assassination. Melanson's decidedly controversial findings are that "Oswald was a U.S. intelligence agent" who "was framed to appear leftist and guilty." Melanson further asserts that CIA officials might not have orchestrated this frame-up and the resulting cover-up; rather, the "conspiracy may have been a renegade one involving between a half dozen to a dozen men who had control of Oswald and of the shadowy network that surrounded him." Melanson does not, however, document these charges, although he posits the need for the release of relevant CIA, FBI, and congressional records that are still being withheld. His argument is based on what can be described as a prosecuting attorney approach, i.e., picking holes in the testimony of various officials and Oswald associates and in various accounts of Oswald's activities dating from his military service to his arrest. Melanson concludes that revelations of other CIA activities, combined with questions concerning Oswald's associations, confirm that the "best" explanation is that "Oswald spent nearly all of his adult life working for U.S. intelligence—most likely the CIA—as

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